

# Fact Sheet 2012

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon  
National Parks



**Superintendent** Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich

**Important Dates** *September 25, 1890:* Sequoia National Park established  
*October 1, 1890:* General Grant National Park established  
*July 3, 1926:* Great Western Divide, Kern Canyon, and Mt. Whitney added to Sequoia National Park  
*March 4, 1940:* Kings Canyon National Park established, which absorbed General Grant National Park  
*August 6, 1965:* Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley added to Kings Canyon National Park  
*November 10, 1978:* Mineral King added to Sequoia National Park  
*September 28, 1984:* Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness designated and Chimney Rock added to Kings Canyon National Park  
*December 4, 2001:* Dillonwood Grove added to Sequoia National Park  
*March 30, 2009:* John Krebs Wilderness designated, and an expansion of acreage added to the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness

++ *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have been jointly-administered since 1943.*

|              |                                  |                           |                           |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Acres</b> | Kings Canyon National Park ..... | 461,901 acres.....        | 722 square miles          |
|              | Sequoia National Park .....      | <u>404,063 acres.....</u> | <u>631 square miles</u>   |
|              | <b>Total acreage .....</b>       | <b>865,964 acres.....</b> | <b>1,353 square miles</b> |

**Acres Designated and Managed as Wilderness** 838,000 acres /1,310 square miles (96.85% of the parks)

|   |            |           |
|---|------------|-----------|
| <b>Visitation-Combined for Both Parks</b> | 2011 ..... | 1,595,214 |
|   | 2010 ..... | 1,610,989 |
|   | 2009 ..... | 1,599,781 |

**Base Budget** \$16,627,200 (Fiscal Year 2011: October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011)

|                     |                            |   |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <b>NPS Staffing</b> | Permanent .....            | 250 (Variable)  |
|                     | Temporary (seasonal) ..... | 300 (Variable)  |
|                     | Volunteers .....           | 1,276 Volunteers contributed 54,058 hours of work in 2011 |

|                                     |   |                             |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Campgrounds and Picnic Areas</b> | RVs and/or tents .....                  | 9 campgrounds (1,071 sites) |
|                                     | Tents only .....                        | 4 campgrounds (100 sites)   |
|                                     | Midsize group sites (7-19 people) ..... | 2 campgrounds (26 sites)    |
|                                     | Group sites (12-50 max) .....           | 3 campgrounds (11 sites)    |
|                                     | Picnic areas .....                      | 9                           |

|                   |                           |                    |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Park Roads</b> | Primary (paved) .....     | 129 miles (206 km) |
|                   | Secondary (unpaved) ..... | 24 miles (38 km)   |

**Trails** 842.4 miles (1,347 km)

**Caves** 275 caves, cumulative length of 35 miles

**Wild and Scenic Rivers** Kern River: North Fork (28.9 miles designated "Wild")  
 Kings River: Middle Fork (29.5 miles designated "Wild")  
 South Fork (24.1 miles designated "Wild" and 7.6 miles designated "Recreational")

|                                     |                    |                              |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Average Annual Precipitation</b> | Ash Mountain ..... | 25.4 inches rain (1" snow)   | <b>Wettest Months:</b><br><i>January, February, and March</i> |
|                                     | Lodgepole .....    | 50.0 inches rain (260" snow) |   |
|                                     | Grant Grove .....  | 42.5 inches rain (184" snow) |   |

|  |   |  |           |
|--|---|--|-----------|
| <b>Wildlife Species</b>                    | Amphibians .....  | 12 native (including 1 extinct) .....  | 13 total  |
|  | Birds .....   | 181 native (including 1 extinct) .....   | 212 total |
|  | Fish .....  | 5 native .....   | 11 total  |
|  | Mammals .....   | 72 (including 2 extinct) .....   | 77 total  |
|  | Reptiles .....  | 24 native (including 2 extinct) .....  | 24 total  |
|  | <i>Federal Listing</i> Federal endangered species .....                   | 1 (Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep)  |           |
|  | Federal threatened species .....  | 1 (Little Kern golden trout)   |           |
|  | Candidate species .....   | 5 (Southern mountain yellow-legged frog, Yosemite toad, fisher, wolverine, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog)                   |           |
|  | Sensitive species .....   | 51 (various)   |           |
|  | Alien or introduced species .....   | 43 (various)   |           |
|  | Extinct species .....   | 6 (Foothill yellow-legged frog, side-blotched lizard, coast horned lizard, California condor, grizzly bear, black-tailed hare) |           |
| <i>California Listing</i> Threatened ..... | 4 (Swainson's hawk, red fox, wolverine, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog) |  |           |
|  | Endangered.....   | 5 (Great grey owl, Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, willow flycatcher, bald eagle, Southern mountain yellow-legged frog)           |           |

**Plants** Number of species (1,530) including: 22 deciduous tree species 26 evergreen tree species

|                                 |  |                      |   |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| <b>Giant Sequoia Statistics</b> | Largest tree .....                     | General Sherman Tree | 52,508 cubic feet in volume,<br>274.9 feet tall |
|                                 | Largest grove in Kings Canyon NP ..... | Redwood Mountain     | 2,086 acres                                     |
|                                 | Largest grove in Sequoia NP .....      | *Giant Forest        | 1,800 acres                                     |

\* Dillonwood-Garfield Grove may exceed this; studies needed.

*Current best estimates are that roughly one-third of all naturally-occurring sequoias grow in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.*

**Interesting Facts**

- Sequoia National Park is the second oldest national park in the U.S. (Yellowstone is oldest.)
- In 1903, Captain Charles Young oversaw operations in Sequoia and General Grant national parks, making him the first African-American superintendent (acting) of a national park.
- Three of the top 10 oldest tree species in the world live here: giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)-3,266 yrs., western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*)-2,675 yrs., and foxtail pine (*Pinus balfouriana*)-2,123 yrs.

**Points of Interest and Elevations**

|  | Feet    | Meters |
|--|---------|--------|
| <i>Lowest point in the parks: Middle Fork, Kaweah River (below Park Headquarters).....</i> | 1,370   | 418    |
| Foothills Visitor Center/Ash Mountain .....  | 1,720   | 518    |
| Hospital Rock Picnic Area .....  | 2,684   | 818    |
| Amphitheater Point .....   | 4,370   | 1,356  |
| Crystal Cave .....   | 4,540   | 1,384  |
| Giant Forest Museum .....  | 6,409   | 1,954  |
| Moro Rock .....  | 6,725   | 2,050  |
| General Sherman Tree .....   | 6,906   | 2,112  |
| Lodgepole Village .....  | 6,720   | 2,048  |
| Wuksachi Village and Lodge .....   | 7,057   | 2,158  |
| <i>Highest point along Generals Highway: Big Baldy Saddle .....</i>                        | 7,600   | 2,316  |
| Grant Grove Village .....  | 6,589   | 2,008  |
| Cedar Grove Village .....  | 4,635   | 1,412  |
| Mineral King Ranger Station .....  | 7,580   | 2,318  |
| Bearpaw Meadow Camp .....  | 7,800   | 2,377  |
| Pear Lake Hut .....  | 9,200   | 2,804  |
| Mt. Whitney .....  | *14,494 | 4,417  |

\* Highest point in contiguous United States with exact elevation under discussion at USGS